

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Aboriginal student numbers soaring

Dream Hutchinson is one of many Aboriginal students that are flooding the halls of academia this year as enrollment of First Nation and Métis students rises rapidly. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Aboriginal student enrolment has increased in post-secondary institutions across Saskatchewan this fall. One of those students is first year First Nations University of Canada (FNU) student Dream Hutchinson from Piapot First Nation.

She is pursuing an education in journalism with the Indian Communications Arts (INCA) program, which introduces students to a variety of mediums within the field of journalism.

"I've decided to come to the FNU to further my education. I've always wanted to be a writer since Grade 6 so I thought of journalism," says Hutchinson.

She was surprised when she heard about the increased enrolment of Aboriginal students.

"It's really good because it shows a lot of us First Nations and Aboriginals want to be here," she says.

According to Lynn Wells, the First Nations University of Canada Vice-President Academic, all three campuses have increased by five per cent this

fall semester.

"Our registered student numbers are sitting about 710. Historically our aboriginal student population has been over 90 per cent in all three campuses," says Wells from the Regina campus.

"This is a phenomenon that's striking in all institutions in the province (because) you're seeing higher Aboriginal student enrolment. I think post-secondary institutions are doing a better job of recruiting and retaining Aboriginal students."

Christian-Lee Masuskapoe from Ahtahkakoop First Nation, a returning U of S second-year student says it's great to see the increase enrolment of Aboriginal students in post-secondary institutions including at the U of S.

"I think it's really awesome because as a community we're growing together," says Masuskapoe who is working towards a nursing degree.

"It's a positive move because more people can look up to us and think to themselves 'if they can do it, I can do it too,'" she says. "It is hard work but it is doable."

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Welcome to our
Back to School Edition

Coming In October - Education & Role Models

CPMA #40027204

Latest CUMFI initiative provides housing for people with HIV/AIDS

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Shirley Isbister knows exactly what a family's most basic need is and she and her team at CUMFI Métis Local work hard every day to see meet that essential requirement.

"You have to have a roof over your head before you can take care of anything else," said Isbister as she introduced the most recent CUMFI house to the community.

Stewart House is a facility that will provide a specialized supportive housing program for Aboriginal women and their families who have HIV/AIDS. Named after Lorraine Stewart, a long-time advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness and services, the house provides stability for a mom and her children as she deals with her health.

"This is a beautiful house with a big yard for the kids and they are well looked after," said Isbister.

This property makes it two houses and 11 apartment buildings for CUMFI. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund and the City of Saskatoon all invested in the project.

Lorraine Stewart knows the needs of

the community very well. Her son was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987 and died a year later. At that time there was a lot of fear around AIDS.

"We have come a long way but we have a long way to go. The stigma is still there and I am sure the more of us that get involved and prepare to take a stand, things will get even better," said Stewart.

She became a tireless advocate for people with HIV/AIDS and was a founder of People Living With Aids and has been its president for over a decade.

"Having this house named after me is very humbling but there are thousands of people affected by HIV/AIDS but we only see a handful of them. The disease is not a death sentence anymore.

"I am so pleased we have gone so far. We did not have these services. Now we can help other families so they do not have to go through what we did."

By opening supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS who need housing and may struggle with poverty, lack of support to access wellness services, and conflict with Child and Family Services, the Stewart House will be able provide housing services for families with complex behaviours and health needs.



Lorraine Stewart received a blanket after the new CUMFI Home for people living with HIV/AIDS was dedicated in her name. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

CUMFI, with support from Persons Living with AIDS Network of Saskatchewan Inc. and the Westside Community Clinic, will provide case management to the families living in the homes with the goals of having them live well with HIV/AIDS, access necessary medical interventions, experience housing security, regain and maintain custody of children, and work towards greater independence.

This program is a natural extension of CUMFI's other programs and will have

an impact on a very specific population of women who are homeless or at risk.

"We are honoured to dedicate this house to Lorraine, a strong Métis woman who has been so passionate about the cause and has done so much," said Isbister.

"What we have today is a good start. Our families are in dire need of housing and support. But we need to do more. You have visions, you just need to find the money."

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A Treaty Medal and Wild Romance on a historic night

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A brisk wind kept the Treaty 6 flag and the standards of four nations proudly flapping at Marquis Downs in Saskatoon on a special night at the races honouring the 138th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6.

The evening was sponsored by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to raise awareness of the Treaties. They were gracious hosts. Burgers and hotdogs were on and the cool night air was filled with the welcoming music of Phil and Dallas Boyer and the magical tapping of the Northern Prairie Dancers.

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Little Pine First Nation, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Mistawasis First Nation sponsored the last four races and presented horse blankets to each of the winners.

understanding what treaty is to each individual,” said Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Cliff Tawpisin Jr.

“The chance to share this and our community as to what Treaty means to us certainly is a great opportunity to educate. We all contribute to the greater society.”

The evening was a big hit with regular race fans but even more so with the jockeys and trainers.

“The next day the trainers were all talking about the night. They were very happy and the extra purse money helps,” said long-time horse trainer Mike Tourangeau who was proud of the fact the First Nations sponsored the races that night.

Tourangeau also trained a special horse that won the final race of the night. Wild Romance is owned by Calvin Straightnose and Tourangeau trains for

happy to be involved where a First Nation jockey, owner and trainer all tied to one horse that won big in a race sponsored by Mistawasis First Nation on a historic night.

“I put Sheldon on her cause he needs rides and he got the win. That’s the second time he has won for me. This was great and we need more nights like this. There are lots of our people that work at the track. Sometimes we struggle, but we are always there because we were born to raise horses.”

Eugene Arcand was an entertaining master of ceremonies, the food was good and behind the glass the entire upper section was clapping along with the fiddle music being piped throughout the racetrack. Also catching eyes was the original Treaty Medal that was brought by Chief Darryl Watson of Mistawasis First Nation.

The community is in the process of repatriating the historic medal and Chief Watson showed it to anyone who asked.

“Back 138 years ago, when Chief Mistawasis started talking with the Government of Canada to look at a more positive future for our people, that culminated in what we have today. The medal is a significant aspect of that relationship,” said Chief Watson.

“It is a bond created by the Crown and First Nations people and it is representative of what Treaty is all about.”

The message Chief Watson spread was that we are all Treaty people and if we work together, the future can be good for everyone. Events like the Treaty Commissioners sponsorship of the races are all part of the relationship building and it is education for everyone that will lead us into the future.

“I’m definitely optimistic. Chief Mistawasis was an optimist. He believed in years ahead planning. He had the vision and foresight to look at what was going to happen hundreds of years down the road.



Chief Darryl Watson brought the Mistawasis Treaty Medal to the event.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

And that is what Treaty is all about,” added Chief Watson.

“Education is a component of Treaty 6 and is our next buffalo. As our people concentrate on getting a good education and we have them come home with their educational values and helping us with our economic opportunities and education systems and health programs.

“Instead of being dependant, you look at more independence. Education is going to get us there as we progress down that path. It ties directly to Treaties.”

Fittingly, the evening ended with victorious jockey Sheldon Chickeness walking off the track holding his son’s hand as the boy looked up at his dad in awe. Asked if he had any thoughts to share with kids who wanted to be a jockey, Chickeness smiled and responded, “Stay in school first.”



Mistawasis Chief Darryl Watson congratulates the owner of Wild Romance and jockey Sheldon Chickeness winners of the eighth race on Treaty 6 night at Marquis Downs.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Leaders from each community spoke before their respective races and talked about their visions of Treaty, hope and sharing.

“This is all about educating people. We are all Treaty and it is a matter of them

him all the time. Straightnose received the horse from his mother who purchased the horse with funds from her residential school settlement.

“She is a good horse, lively and likes to bang around,” said Tourangeau. He was



Gary belongs to two communities. We’re proud to be one of them.

Gary Lerat grew up in a community he loves — the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. Today, he’s also a member of the PotashCorp community. Thanks to a unique outreach program, we’re tapping into the talents of First Nations and Métis people like Gary. We offered him a career path at our Rocanville mine, and he’s making the most of it. “It’s got that community feel,” says Gary about PotashCorp. “Everyone there is almost like family.” To see the video of Gary’s story, visit PotashCorp.com/25



We're making great progress on education front

September always comes with a buzz. The economy picks up as we spend our kids back to school and we get back to our routines. Despite lots of challenges in the community, this year seems more optimistic than last.

Actually, the challenges seem to be uniting the communities. Thankfully, it is impossible to compare the first day of school for the residential school students just recently honoured in La Ronge with the first day of school for kids these days.

As bad as the residential schools were, survivors like Elder Albert Ross of Lac la Ronge continue to lead with their resiliency and their perspective. Even though he was abused, Elder Albert is thankful for the limited education he did receive and he doesn't know where he would be without it. Those days are gone but will never be forgotten. He and his fellow survivors were fittingly honoured last month with the placement of a monument at the site of their former school in La Ronge.

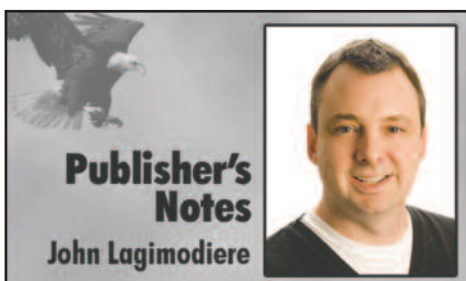
Albert is likely amazed at the current offerings in our schools. Instead of residential schools, we are actually teaching about residential schools, the Indian Act and Treaties and finally hearing about the Métis grievances. Instead of suppressing culture, First Nation and Métis languages and dance are being celebrated and encouraged. Elders are present. People are being fed nutritious food. Kids are nurtured.

Saskatchewan has never seen more First Nation and Métis people in post secondary education ever. Graduation rates are rising and the Aboriginal unemployment rate has dropped every month for 13 months.

It is a testament to the community that all these gains have been made while still fighting an uphill battle with Ottawa over money. Imagine what could be accomplished with suitable funding levels and an engaged citizenry working together to fight poverty. We are doing amazing things, we just have to do more.

Time for action and an inquiry

There has to be an inquiry into the causes of high numbers of missing and murder Aboriginal women. We could go on to list hundreds of emotional reasons why, but you have heard them already. We need the inquiry to pull together the massive



across Saskatchewan, should be putting forward best practices and implementing them immediately.

That means cooperation, action and

on the inquiry, people who can do something about it, like Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, Premier Brad Wall and Métis and First Nation leaders

Northern Saskatchewan Football League. Teams across the North finally get to enjoy that autumn ritual of putting on the team colours and smashing mouth against nearby towns. The rivalries are intense up there and the football culture is really catching on.

The league kicked off in Pinehouse this year with La Loche visiting. On the way home, one of the La Loche Lakers team vans was in a single vehicle accident that resulted in injuries to six players in one of including a serious injury to #15 Dianna Janvier. She remains in hospital. We send our best wishes out to Dianna.

Speaking of Pinehouse

A judge in Prince Albert has thrown out a lawsuit that set out to stop a collaboration agreement between Cameco, Areva and the Northern Village of Pinehouse.

According to paNOW Judge Rothery said the lawsuit didn't have enough facts to justify the suit. The case was brought forth by 40 plaintiffs, only four of whom were actual residents of Pinehouse. Some were from as far away as Australia.

Not to overstate it, but the plaintiffs alleged the collaboration agreement broke almost every law in Canada. The judge saw through this tactic and came down hard on the plaintiffs for the frivolous suit. She ordered the plaintiffs to pay the costs of the defendants who will each receive \$2,000.

Correction

In our last issue we did a story on the Métis Monument at the Back to Batoche site. In that article there was a reference made that there will be research done on Métis veterans. That research has already been done by academics like Cathy Littlejohn and institutions like Gabriel Dumont Institute. The research is vast and will lead to over 7,000 names being engraved on the Métis veteran's monument. We apologize for the confusion.



The investment in education bodes well for these young students' chances of seeking post-secondary education.

amounts of empirical data and research out there already, speak to families and create an integrated strategy that addresses the root causes.

The issues is, these inquiries take lots of time, something we don't have the luxury of when it comes to stopping the next sister from becoming a statistic.

That's why, as the process is starting

human and financial resources.

This issue has united Canadians. Sure, not all agree on whether or not to have an inquiry and the debates can get ugly, but most people with comment on the issue certainly don't want to see any more women hurt. That we all agree on.

Sending best wishes

This is the second year of the

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The sad story of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone

For thousands of years, First Nation people from the Great Northern Plains would gather at Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone by the hundreds or thousands for spiritual ceremonies.

This huge stone shaped like a sleeping buffalo was held in high regard. One version as to how it came to be was that a long time ago, a baby boy was lost and it was found by the buffalo who raised him to manhood. Eventually, the boy returned to his people's camp to live with them.

One day, sometime after a buffalo hunt, he watched as his adopted buffalo father was killed. Heartbroken, he was offered by the Spiritual Power that is, the option of becoming a buffalo, a stone buffalo, and so hence, the name Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone.

The rock was located at a place where there was a huge bend in the Wawaskaysew Sipi which today is known as the South Saskatchewan River.

Different spiritual ceremonies were held in this location by not only the Plains Cree, but also other tribes including the Saulteaux and the Assiniboine.

As a Story Keeper, I have an interview that was done in 1976 with Assiniw Kiysik aka Ed Poorman and in

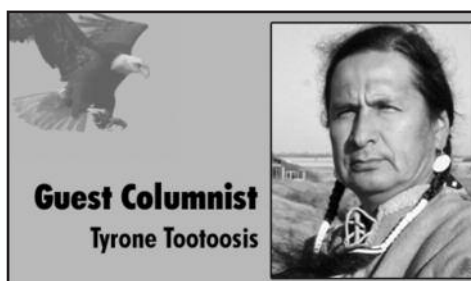
the interview, he shared how, as a young child, he had gone with his grandfather to Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone for spiritual ceremonies. Assiniw Kiysik was born in 1876 and was 100 years old when he was interviewed.

In 1950, the Saskatchewan government began planning to build a huge dam. Unfortunately, the government felt that Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone was too big and would be dangerous to leave as is. First Nations rallied and initiated a fundraising campaign to move the rock to a safe location off shore.

A concert was held with high profile artists such as Saskatchewan's own Buffy St. Marie headlining the performance. Other artists including American activist and comedian Dick Gregory and Ivan McNab from the George Gordon First Nation got involved.

But, unfortunately and despite efforts by First Nations to find a way to save it, the government proceeded to dynamite Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone in December of 1966.

The government's action came as a painful and disappointing surprise to



First Nation people.

People from Poundmaker Cree Nation retrieved pieces of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone and when

Poundmaker's remains were brought back from Blackfoot Crossing where he had died in 1886, these pieces of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone were placed in a circle around Chief Poundmaker's grave at Cut Knife Hill on Poundmaker Reserve.

About 20 years ago, I came upon some archival visuals of an event that had taken place where Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone once laid. It was a series of photographs of Plains Cree Assiniboine dancers conducting a social ceremonial in front of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone. The singer and dancer in the photograph is my late father, Wilfred Tootosis, and the dancers were from Poundmaker and Little Pine Reserves. As the oldest in the family, I inherited some of my late father's things and amongst other items, one of them is a beaded buckle that he was wearing on that day.

About two months ago, a friend forwarded an article that talked about a local project whose goal was to try to find Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone.

I read the article and it mentioned a website.

It was here where I found my late father's photograph along with the dancers taken in the mid 1960s and just before Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone was dynamited and blown up.

I then contacted the project leader and we spoke at length along with sharing some information on Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone.

This was very shortly before the dive to try to locate Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone took place at Lake Diefenbaker. Project leader Steven Thairin came to visit me at our place and I was able to show him some of the things I had in my possession including pieces of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone.

A few weeks after, I was there the day the divers found Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone under 70 feet of murky water and it was a surreal and yet sad feeling to say the least ... to again, touch and hold in my hands a small piece of Buffalo Boy Turned To Stone.

A documentary is now underway to tell the story of what happened.

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What kind of education makes the most sense?

My oldest granddaughter is entering university this fall having, like so many others, graduated from Grade 12 this year.

I plan to write her some notes of advice but not before I offer here some scattered thoughts on the subject of education, this month's focus of this publication. Let me start by stating that I do not profess to be an expert in education, whatever that might mean. My views are based upon my experience, which includes having taught at virtually every grade of elementary and secondary education, as well as university classes in various subjects in several countries.

What is in it?

A formal education will not guarantee a job or happiness. But the statistics are clear that those with higher education make more money. In turn, money does not buy happiness but those without it generally do not have the same lot in life as those who do. Check the prison populations. The average level of education there is not as high as it is amongst those who live in a good privately-owned house. There are enough reports on these topics to choke a horse.

What kind of education?

University is fine for a minority of the population for whom it makes sense but most important is the gaining of a decent

education by everyone, regardless of scholarly aptitude. An informed, literate and educated population is one of the greatest assets for any country. Dictatorships thrive on ignorance, whether they manufacture it or not. A healthy and educated population is one of the essential attributes of an effective government.

I have observed what may, perhaps, be an inflated regard by some Aboriginal people for a university education. I have also observed practices that lean towards giving free passes for university strugglers who have not found the gift they surely possess.

I have known geniuses and great orators with little formal education. I have encountered fools and dunces with doctoral and other advanced degrees. Many tradesmen and other workers do much better in life, financially or otherwise, than university graduates. My remarks should be understood in light of my membership in the latter category.

In my view, much too little emphasis is put on the value of sports and recreation in Canadian schools. I know that the mind and spirit work with the body. I know no



Comment

Paul Chartrand

better way to sharpen one's intellectual focus than to participate in strenuous and regular physical activity.

Let me put in a good word for

teachers. A pupil is lucky to have one or more of the right kind of teacher: the one who inspires a sense of curiosity in the world around us. A teacher who helps young people find out how much one's world can be expanded and inspired by reading.

First Nation Education

Policy and law on First Nation issues tends to follow the interests of governments that provide the necessary funding.

With the achievement of relative economic self-sufficiency many of the current debacles would dissipate and disappear. Some First Nations, particularly at the bookends of Canada, have been working on developing a statutory basis for the delivery of education to children on reserve. Various programs exist for post-secondary off-reserve education.

By and large the education of First Nation folks is governed by the indefensible system in the 1876 *Indian Act*. It is

essential that First Nation education institutions and arrangements undergo a transformation. This is demanded by all the relevant standards whether from international law or domestic values and principles including constitutional rights.

There are optional approaches available for designing First Nations schooling but all of them require some statutory basis.

Regardless of how the current debacle on a *First Nation Education Act* turns out, the education of the children deserves sustained and concerted effort.

...

Remembering Jamie Hammersmith

Like many others in Saskatchewan who knew the young lawyer, Jamie Hammersmith, I was shocked and saddened to hear of his recent sudden death. I met Jamie when he was a student at the University Of Saskatchewan College Of Law.

We played a couple of rounds of golf, a game he admired and loved. I had recently been in contact with Jamie, now a successful young man with a family. I regarded him as a man with a kind, generous and friendly soul. I am saddened at his untimely departure.

My deepest condolences go to Cheyenne, Bernice and to all the family members in their time of sorrow.

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Parents are a critical part of the education team

The new school year is here. Some are thrilled to see friends and start a new grade level. Some wish that summer would never end.

I know many parents have been patiently waiting for school to start since the second week of summer holidays. Parents must understand that teachers are there to teach, not to babysit. Work with the teacher and make your child's school year a success.

Remember this, "99 per cent of life is showing up", and we can say the same thing about parenthood. So put parenting on your to do list. Parental involvement is consistently linked to school success, even in higher grades. Studies have found that parents who visited the school regularly and encouraged education at home had higher social skills and lower rates of problems such as anxiety and depression.

Everyone is busy these days, but make time to make your child's school experience a priority. Be present in your child's school life. Read the notes that the teacher sends home and attend parent/teacher nights. Find out what your child is learning and ask how you can help them be successful.

My favorite quote is from John F. Kennedy who said "If not us – who? If not now – when?" Education is a team sport, so get involved, parents! Tapwe!

There are things we can do to ensure that

our children have a successful school year. First make sure they get plenty of sleep – sleep is brain fuel. Next make sure your children are getting exercise. Students who are physically fit get better marks in school. In fact some schools are experimenting with morning exercises as a way to boost concentration and improve test results.

Find out if your child's school has a good exercise program. Finally, play memory games with your child. Research shows that the brain retains information better when it's forced to retrieve it – using flash cards is a good example.

Change can be hard on our children. What do you do when your child comes home from school upset with his or her teacher? First of all, listen. It's so important to listen to your child's feelings.

I found that if you let them vent, 99 per cent of the problem will disappear. Don't show up at your child's school with the intent of yelling at the teacher and putting them in their place as that is not very productive.

Remember you and the teacher are on the same team – both of you want your child to succeed. Ask questions and find ways to help make school a positive experience.



The first year of high school can be so scary. Parents, pay close attention to your children's behavior while they are in high school – many gangs

recruit our children from schools. Enroll your children in sports and take them to their games – be present in their lives and show them you care.

For you older students, the first day of university classes is very much like the first day of elementary school. Feeling overwhelmed by university is normal. Everything is new and adjusting takes time.

Unfortunately, the adjustment process is not always smooth and you may find you have missed assignments, forgotten deadlines and totally bombed on exams. Every student is different, and some adjust faster than others. The change between high school and university is a huge; be patient.

Yes, some students adapt to university like fish to water, but most students adapt to university like dog to water (initially disoriented, but gradually getting used to it and even liking it).

You're not the only one, so don't be shy and talk to other students about your questions

and concerns. Ask others how they deal. If possible, find a few friends a couple of years ahead and ask them how they lived through it all (talk to the survivors!). Ask for advice, guidance, and maybe even mentorship.

In fact, some schools offer mentorship programs for new students, so take advantage of them. Use the wisdom of people who have "been there, done that". Hang in there and if you make it through first year, you're pretty much set.

Recognize that there are many ways of learning outside of schools and universities. We have Elders in our communities who are eager to share their knowledge take advantage of these opportunities. Teach your young men how to hunt and share; take your children berry picking and show them how to gather food for the winter.

Our people were given gifts and we need to find ways to keep our traditions going. Live a drug and alcohol free life and set the example for your children.

My advice to parents of university students; land the helicopter and let your kids find their own way. You don't need to hover they will be fine. Ekosi.

Keep your emails and letters coming. You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 St Main, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Stability

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Craig Bird, Supervisor VI, Public Works Division



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Mary Longman honoured her mother as Warrior Woman on a mural on Saskatoon's 20th Street above AKA Gallery. (Photos supplied)

Warrior Woman shouts: "Stop the Silence!"

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A giant warrior woman on Saskatoon's 20th Street is getting a lot of attention and raising awareness of murdered and missing women.

Mary Longman's latest work, Warrior Women: "Stop the Silence!" is on a huge billboard above AKA art gallery. Longman explains that it began as a memorial work inspired by her mother Lorraine Longman, a courageous and resilient survivor.

Regular beatings in Residential School caused a severe head injury at age eight and a lifetime of grand mal seizures, and premature dementia. Young, attractive, and poverty-stricken, but no longer able to attend school, or to work as an adult, her uncles taught her to fight in order to survive the violence, crime, and vulnerabilities of her position, and she became known as "the toughest chick in the hood."

Born in 1949, she passed away in 2012, but had seven children in a row beginning at age 15; all of them were apprehended by social services. By the time she was 21 she was parentless herself when her pregnant mother, Emma, was killed by a drunk driver in Regina, at the same time injuring her grandmother. The driver was given six months sentence – the length of time her grandmother was in hospital.

Longman's tribute to her mother's tenacity and courage in the face of every loss is transformed into the Indigenous version of Americanized Wonder Woman, symbolic of the Indigenous struggle in the aftermath of centuries of deliberate assault, not only with the residential schools and the Sixties Scoop, but the ongoing assault on Indigenous peoples for over 500 years.

Her image and legacy in the billboard calls for an end to the violence, and silence, as she becomes the voice for millions of Indigenous people slain from 1492 onwards by colonial armies, settlers inhumanely competing for resources, land and gold.

"Canadians want the truth, and feel betrayed when

they have learnt that they have been lied to by omission," Longman noted.

"History in Canada did not start 500 years ago with European contact. Human history started in Canada 30,000 to 40,000 years ago with the Indigenous people."

But this erasure in the history texts and government discourse of an occupied genocide has not been acknowledged, apologized for, or memorialized, notes Longman. Raising a tightly clutched red and white campaign ribbon

calling to action a national campaign for Indigenous Genocide, "Warrior Woman" shouts out, "Stop The Silence!" Longman hopes to bring justice and truth, a paradigm shift that acknowledges both the genocide, and the Indigenous guidance and knowledge shared with newcomers.

"My mother's story was the incentive to draw a bigger picture on Indigenous genocide in history, whether it was direct or cumulative."



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What are we going to do about it?

Daleen Bosse Muskego. Tamra Keepness. Karina Wolfe. Loretta Saunders. Tina Fontaine. Say one name a minute, and 20 hours later you'll still be talking.

Tweet one a day like Gregory Scofield, and four years later you'll still be going. The relatively low number of Aboriginal women in the population versus their over-representation in missing/being murdered is comparably equivalent to a city the size of Saskatoon disappearing.

Pressure is building for a national inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women. More importantly, on taking action. But Stephen Harper has once again dismissed the need, calling Tina Fontaine's death an isolated crime, not a sociological phenomenon. Simplistic and wrong-headed, when it is a clear pattern with historical and current sociological root causes and context. Crime is, by definition, sociological – but this is the same Prime Minister who created the phrase "committing sociology" – so maybe sociology and crime are closer than he'll admit.

Other articles are wrongly stating new RCMP statistics show Aboriginal males are to blame. What the report doesn't emphasize is that 20 per cent of the cases they looked at, are unsolved which means they have little or no data for every fifth woman missing/murdered.

Headings like "knowing their victims" are vague and undefined – but obviously

reporting on what was relayed by/about perpetrators, not views/perspective of deceased victims, something especially important when it comes to analyzing acquaintance level, motives or context. It is crime analysis framed by criminals and a broken justice system, not by the victims, families, and communities.

When the report states murder was committed by a spouse or acquaintance, non-Aboriginals sometimes assume that must be another Aboriginal – which of course isn't necessarily the case. The report notes Aboriginal women are at least 12 per cent less likely to be killed by a current or former partner than non-Aboriginal women in the solved cases. The RCMP say 68 per cent of deaths occurred in "a residence" – but not whose residence, and this also ignores those still missing.

There is a lot of vagueness and misdirection, but enough statistics that other people can misread or spin them out of ignorance – or malice.

Whether it is non-Aboriginal or Aboriginal men carrying the violence out, male privilege and the devaluation of women, Aboriginal women in particular, is a direct result of colonialism and the history of this country.



Guest Columnist
Andréa Ledding

Aboriginal people, in general, and women in particular, have been treated with disrespect and devalued in wider society. (See: <http://medias-marts.ca/.../media-portrayals-missing-and...>) We are all – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – products of a racist, colonial country. This is our shared cross-cultural heritage; how do we overcome it? What are we going to do about it?

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and the other premiers are unanimously calling for an inquiry.

Great. Let's start in each province/territory, and then pool our information. Here is Wall's chance to be a leader not just by word but action. Why follow a leader who is clearly not a leader (i.e. Harper)?

Christi Belcourt, who called out for 600 beaded vamps and received nearly 2,000 in the travelling memorial "Walking With Our Sisters", asked on social media today: "What do you want the inquiry to look like?"

Let's start framing it: it is going to happen one way or the other. She asked: "Why not a commission?" Even better. Emil Bell and Donna Gamble are walking for our sisters this month, while the Saskatchewan community prepares to welcome back the "Walking With

Our Sisters" vamps at Wanuskewin in November. The time is now.

Tina Fontaine was 15 years old. She was not the first Aboriginal female youth to be assaulted, killed, and tossed aside. We all want her to be the last, but as I write this, someone has told me the body of a young woman was found in Ottawa's Rideau Canal.

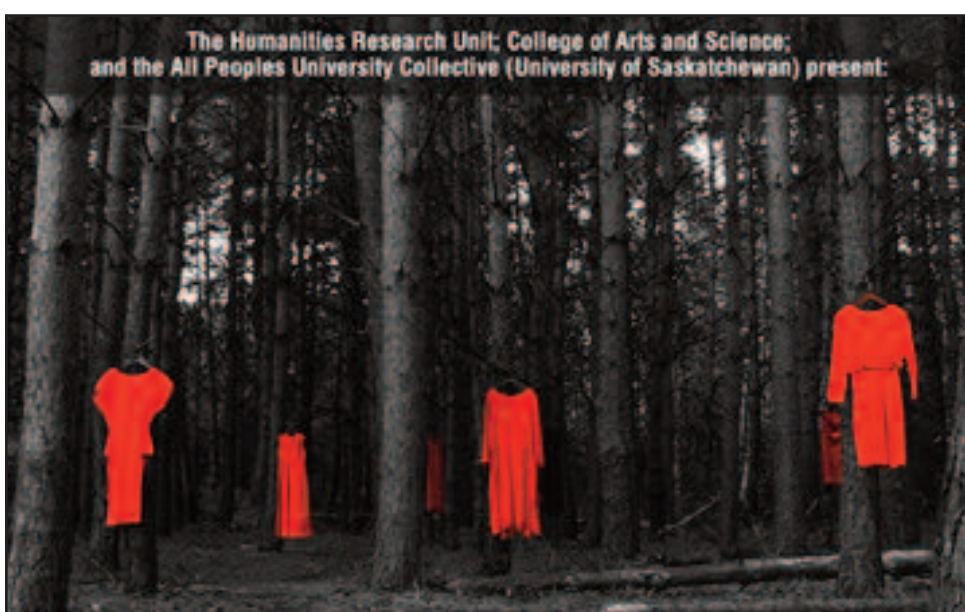
Would Harper change his tune if it was three times more likely his daughter was being pulled out of the water tonight?

I grew up knowing about Betty Osborne, knowing society allows this to go on and on and on. In Saskatchewan not that long ago, a 13-year-old Aboriginal girl was raped by young men who were excused while the victim was blamed by the Caucasian male judge.

These are female children! Being sexually assaulted and/or killed by males who feel entitled to do so, rarely facing consequences let alone deterrents. It's not just an isolated crime, it's a pathology. A social pathology. A widespread pattern. And it's upheld by the status quo who benefit from it, and those who do not actively resist it.

We need to make this country better than it was for Tina Fontaine, and all the other disappeared, violence, and silenced, counting on our leaders to stop "doing nothing." And all the male offenders counting on everyone to continue "doing nothing."

Ask yourselves what the inquiry – no, the commission – should look like, and how we can take action.



THE RED Dress PROJECT

Artist: Jaime Black
September 17 - October 5, 2014

Exhibition Opening

Talks & Reception

Thursday 17th 2014

4:00 pm

University of Saskatchewan
Place Riel
North Concourse

Exhibition Walking Tour

with artist Jaime Black

September 17, 2014

7:30 pm

University of Saskatchewan
Meet at Place Riel
North Concourse

Walking with Our Sisters

Coffee House & Fundraiser

September 18, 2014

Doors open at 7:00 pm
University of Saskatchewan
Louis' Loft

Research Round Table &

Community Discussion:

Taking Action to End

Violence Against

Indigenous Women

October 1, 2014

7:00 pm

Station 20 West
1120 - 20th Street West

The Red Dress Project is an art installation and critical response to the hundreds of reported cases of murdered or disappeared Indigenous women across Canada. Through the collection and public display of empty red dresses, the installation seeks to create space for dialogue around the gendered and racialized nature of violence against Indigenous women. *The Red Dress Project* will be installed in Agriculture, Arts, Education, Geology and the Bowl.

Artist Jaime Black is of Anishnaabe and European descent, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Exhibition maps are available at the sites and in the Aboriginal Student Centre

For more information, please contact:
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Play Responsibly

From the street to a home

Housing First gets a roof over the head of Saskatoon's homeless

By Angela Hill

For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – They are called the hard to house.

They are people who have been homeless for a long time, often with addictions to alcohol or drugs and sometimes with mental health issues.

The people who don't make it to housing through the traditional social services model of entering a shelter, going to a detox program before maybe getting to move on to supervised housing.

But, Housing First, a program that is coming up on its six-month anniversary, is changing all of that.

"This jumps right in," said Jordan Mills, Housing First team leader.

"I think this concept, which is sort of radical – take somebody who is your most at risk and acute in the community and homeless and plops them in a house and see what happens, is quite contrary to the way we usually do work."

Housing First started in April, another piece of the City of Saskatoon homelessness strategy.

There are already 11 people housed, with more undergoing the assessment process, and the people working in the program are seeing positive results.

One client had a fairly normal childhood before he was pulled away from his family to go to residential school. Even when he completed school, the loss of family life lead to a decline for him – he turned to alcohol. Then another tragedy; his wife died and shortly after that his child was apprehended.

"So this man went through a pretty traumatic series of events earlier on in his life that led to a lifetime of alcoholism," Mills said.

The man moved from drinking beverage alcohol, like wine, beer or spirits, to consuming Listerine, rubbing alcohol or Isagel.

Before coming into contact with the Housing First team he had been living on the street for 17 to 18 years, camping out in the bushes, sometimes turning to a detox center, and intoxicated daily.

"He's actually now been successfully housed going on five months. For a good portion of that time, he's actually been sober," Mills said, "seeing that has been tremendous."

Measuring success is not only through the quality of life changes, but tangible changes in the community.

The Housing First case managers monitor statistics, such as how many nights clients spent in the hospital emergency department prior to Housing First, or how many ambulance rides required, or how many times they were incarcerated, or how many visits they had to brief detox.

A study found that 23 people in

Saskatoon were using \$2.8 million in services every year. The same people were circulating through the system over and over again, but nothing was changing, said Myra Potter, director of resource development at United Way of Saskatoon and Area.



A woman without a place to stay sleeps in her car. Housing First looks to find a place to live for people who have struggled with finding a home. (Photo by Angela Hill)

She added that the cost to house someone is only \$23,000 or \$24,000 over the same time period.

In one case of someone currently in the program, there were 150 hospital and ambulance visits in the six months prior to entering Housing First – since then there has only been four visits for the client, Potter said.

"Not only does that say his quality of life is probably quite a bit better, but the cost savings to the systems is remarkable," she said.

The United Way funds Housing First in Saskatoon through donations from private individuals and funding from the Federal Government.

There is buy in as community groups are already seeing a difference.

"We are already hearing from organizations like brief detox – some of their clients who (used to go) back again and again."

Landlords and rental companies are also getting behind the Housing First strategy.

According to Mills, it took some work to explain the program and its goals, but rental groups like the fact clients in Housing First have supports, so they won't get burned.

"We guarantee the rent will be paid on time and in full, we guarantee that the damage deposit will be covered and that the startup will be good, we also guarantee to the landlord that we will be in there, providing in-house support with the intent

for helping the person reaching their optimal tenancy independence," he said.

Not every renter can make those same guarantees.

Pilot projects for Housing First in other major cities like Halifax, Montreal and Moncton, have shown around an 80

unlike how nurses do triage at a hospital, using a tool called a SPDAT – Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool.

The clients that are found to be the most at risk are at the top of the list and the only thing they need to do to enter the program is agree to allow a case manager into their home once a week.

As soon as they do, clients are engaged in apartment shopping. Case managers try to provide as much choice as possible, from the area of the city someone wants, to the type of furniture they want.

"The goal is to make it feel like home for them, so they don't want to leave," Mills said.

Once the client is into the apartment it becomes about service co-ordination, he said, helping the clients to access health care, psychiatric services, medication etc.

Based on the current program, there is space for about 50 of the most acute and vulnerable people, Mills said.

But they are looking to expand. Mills wants to see the addition of an Elder to the team to make sure they are culturally competent and he'd like the addition of a part-time position for a person who has been homeless and can help others adjust to having a roof over their heads.

By having people in a house and not relying on MD Ambulance, emergency rooms and shelters, money is saved, Mills said.

"It's an astronomical cost savings, so that's success right there. Then if you look at the quality of life stuff and the people and the complex issues that have come into our realm.

"It's pretty phenomenal what we've been able to accomplish, who we've been able to house and what we've been able to access for these folks this early on. It's pretty significant."



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Sod turning part of nation building for Muskeg Lake Cree Nation

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

MUSKEG LAKE CREE NATION – Political leaders and dignitaries gathered recently to witness a sod turning to begin a 16,000 square foot building development on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation urban reserve in Saskatoon. This is the first development venture for the economic development arm created by the First Nation.

“We have worked diligently at Muskeg Lake to separate our politics from our business arm and I am pleased at the direction the MLCN Investment Management Corp has taken to improve our economic development future,” said Chief Cliff Tawpisin Jr.

“This is a milestone for us in business. We use best business practices and having people on the board that are business oriented and know the industry.

“This is our very first build and part of our strategic plan on how we are going to develop these sixteen and a half acres.”

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation was the first First Nation to purchase urban lands through its Treaty Land Entitlement monies and has seen economic success with its businesses and property development on the land. First Nations and city administrations from across Canada have studied and modeled the approach Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and the City of Saskatoon have taken.

The success in the urban setting benefits members in the city and back home on the First Nation.

“I always come back to nation building. We look at our own source revenues and our economic program and what it does for the community back home. It is about quality of life,” added Chief Tawpisin Jr.

“Opportunity. Employment opportunities. It is about education. Housing. This impacts everything.”

The MLCN business arm is chaired by Frank Proto. A business giant, Proto has been on the board of several well-known businesses like SaskEnergy, Wascana Energy and the Nelson Group. That experience is a valuable asset to the



From left, Board Chair Frank Proto, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Honourary Chief Bill McKnight, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Cliff Tawpisin Jr. and Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison took part in the official sod turning.

board. He knows the market and he knows the issues.

“We have found some reluctance from some people about building or leasing on reserve lands. Some people don’t quite understand the system or what rights they have,” said Proto.

“Muskeg Lake is under the land management act and leasing here is no different than any other land owner. But the demand for more high quality office space has been evident for some time and we get calls daily inquiring about available space.

“The project is viable and will provide a healthy return and add to Muskeg Lake Cree Nation economic base. I want to put up an office tower next.”

Financing for the project is provided by Affinity Credit Union. Muskeg Lake is a member of the Affinity Credit Union First Nations District. Chris Sicotte, the First Nations Business Development Officer at Affinity says the deal is a win for everyone involved.

“Affinity is committed to First Nation economic development on reserve. This project enhances the well being of the

members, First Nation people and the City of Saskatoon,” said Sicotte.

“Our relationship with Muskeg Lake is a real synergy of values. The similarities between traditional first nation values and the core values of cooperatives are just a perfect fit.”

Confirmed tenants for the building include a sports medicine rehabilitation centre and a law firm. It will be located behind the Cat Tail Building.

“It is a proud day for our community,” added Chief Cliff Tawpisin Jr. after the first sod was turned. “We continue on with our rich history and legacy of being the leaders that we are, developing the partnerships that you require in order to build a nation that our future deserves.

“And that’s what this is all about. It’s about our future and providing members with the opportunity and the quality of life that they so deserve.”

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BUSINESS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

Upcoming conferences

There are a few opportunities in the next month to enhance your economic development ventures.

In Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN) is hosting the third annual forum "Mâwawicîhitowin/Working Together For Great Ideas – Developing Diverse Economic Opportunities" from Sept. 24 to 26 at the Dakota Dunes Casino.

"This organization was established in 2011 based on an identified need to help build capacity within our First Nations communities," said Chair Milton Tootoosis.

The SFNEDN is a grassroots-driven, volunteer organization and has been planning its third forum for several months.

"We are building a network that will lead to strong and viable business relations for the benefit of all communities" added Tootoosis.

"Building strong sustainable economic development strategies includes a foundation of trust and integrity."

This year's forum will include an exciting roster of presenters who will educate and inspire the forum delegates about community development best practices such as the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the Primco Dene Group of Companies, the First Nations Power Authority and the Peter Ballantyne Developments Limited Partnership.

In Ottawa, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business is hosting the Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Trade Show (AECTS) Oct. 8-10 in Gatineau, Quebec. The conference theme, Aboriginal Business Growth: The Next Economic Powerhouse is focused on the expanding growth of, and increased business relations

between, the Aboriginal business community and corporate Canada.

There will be panel discussions, a trade show and keynote speakers including David Tuccaro, President and CEO, Tuccaro Inc. Group of Companies and Dawn Madahbee, general manager, Waubetek Business Development Corporation.

In October the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Indigenous Economic Partnership Summit entitled Opportunity-Are You Ready. This summit will bring together Treaty 6 Indigenous leaders and community members as well as Non-Indigenous Industry Leaders, with the objective of making connections and exploring opportunities towards the goal of developing business and industry partnerships.

During the Summit participants will learn about best practices, partnerships that have worked well, and those components needed to ensure that solid and mutually beneficial partnerships can be established and maintained.

Speakers include successful entrepreneur and founder of Neechie Gear, Kendal Netmaker as well as Chief Robert Louie of The Westbank First Nation.

For further info on these events go to: www.sfnedn.com or www.aects2014.indigenous.net/ or www.ieps.ca

Southend/Cameco development deal

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

After two years of negotiations, the northern community of Southend and uranium mining company Cameco formally signed a ten-year business development agreement on Aug. 25.

The agreement has a number of goals including increasing local participation in the industry, bolstering

company investment in the community and providing job-training opportunities for community members.

As part of the agreement, a skills database will be created which will advise both Southend and Cameco of particular areas where job training is required.

Local councillor and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Vice-Chief Simon Jobb says another major part of the agreement is Cameco funding for three local people per year to receive technical training at Northlands College in La Ronge.

"One of the most positive things here is there is automatic seats that we are going to have through Northlands College for Southend that are going to be taken care of by Cameco," he says. "So, we'll get our people educated and going out into the field."

Cameco director of corporate responsibility Sean Willy says the company has done a fairly good job of getting northern Aboriginal people into entry level jobs but they want to see a more representative workforce at all levels.

"Our challenge now is to move those current employees down the employment pipeline to really the professional, the technical, the trades and the supervisory roles," he says.

Darren Morin, one of a group of local people who spearheaded the idea of signing an agreement with Cameco a few years ago, says he hopes it is only the first of many similar agreements with other companies to come.

"I believe this project won't be stopping here because there are other companies that as a community we have to start tackling," he says.

A community referendum was recently held on the agreement which received a majority mandate to move forward.

Canadian Council for
**ABORIGINAL
BUSINESS**



Aboriginal Entrepreneurs CONFERENCE — AND — TRADE SHOW

Contact Us

Conference Organizers:

Maya Kwasnycia, CMP
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Sponsorship & Events
CCAB
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E mkwasnycia@ccab.com

Tarah McMaster
Events Coordinator,
CCAB
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E tmcmaster@ccab.com

The CCAB Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Trade Show (AECTS) is taking place **October 8-10, 2014** at the Hilton Lac-Leamy hotel in Gatineau, QC.

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- Learn and witness the growing diversity of Aboriginal business in the 21st century;
- Gain perspectives from corporate Canada and Aboriginal businesses, and entrepreneurs on a variety of relevant and topical issues facing businesses by attending our expert Panel Discussions, Keynote Presentations, and Networking Luncheons;
- Participate as a Trade Show exhibitor and increase your business potential!

To learn more and register for this event please visit

www.aects2014.indigenous.net/



Christian-Lee Masuskapoe from Ahtahkakoop First Nation is a U of S second-year student.

First-year students appreciate support

• Continued from Page One

Her first year in university was a great experience and she made a lot of friends with similar priorities and goals.

She acknowledges there are tough times as a student, especially in the first year, but says there are resources available to help students to adapt easily to help them feel comfortable.

"There are a lot of people in the Aboriginal Student Centre that are there when you need to talk. If you want to smudge, you can go smudge in there or you can go there to bead and relax. There are a lot of resources on campus," says Masuskapoe.

That's similar to some of the resources available to students at Regina's FNUUniv campus. The students are able to utilize the glass teepee to smudge with sweetgrass and sage that allows students to retain that ceremonial tradition.

Hutchinson attended orientation before classes kicked off to get a feel of what to expect in university. One of the topics that was discussed is support programs and resources that are available to students to make the transition to university life and to incorporate the First Nations culture ceremonies such as smudging.

"My fears are falling behind and failing which is my biggest fear. I'd (utilize) the support programs on campus such as the elder's office to smudge. That's one of things that I would rely on," says Hutchinson.

FNUUniv's enrollment has increased by 30 per cent since 2012 and at the U of S aboriginal students enrollment increased to 12.4 per cent this fall. The U of R will release the numbers of Aboriginal student enrolment in October.

Notice of Public Hearing

Canada's Nuclear Regulator



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a public hearing to consider the conclusions of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the Saskatchewan Research Council's (SRC) application to obtain a 10-year waste nuclear substance licence for the Gunnar Remediation Project, located in northern Saskatchewan. As required under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*, the Commission must make a decision on the proposed EA Report before rendering its licensing decision.

Hearing: November 6, 2014

Place: CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario

Time: As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

The public hearing will be webcast live, and then archived for a period of 90 days on the CNSC website at nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

Members of the public with an interest or expertise in this matter, or possessing information that may be useful to the Commission's decision-making process, are invited to comment on SRC's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by October 6, 2014, either online at nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention or through the coordinates below. Pursuant to the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, **the request must include the following information:**

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only, or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- name, address and telephone of the requester

You may submit your personal information on a separate page, if you wish to ensure its confidentiality. All submissions are available to the public upon request to the Secretariat.

SRC's submission and CNSC's staff recommendations, including the proposed EA Report (to be considered at the hearing), will be available after September 5, 2014. These documents are not downloadable. To obtain them, a request must be made to the Secretariat at the address below (or directly through the website). Agendas, hearing transcripts and information on the hearing process are available on the CNSC website, nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

c/o Louise Levert, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

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Pride, gratitude behind the tears

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

LAC LA RONGE – “Even though I got no teeth, I still smile,” laughs Elder Albert Ross.

The occasion was one of pride, honour and remembrance. Ross was one of many Indian residential school survivors that helped to unveil a monument on the grounds where two schools once stood.

The commemoration honours the hundreds of children who attended the Lac La Ronge Indian Residential School during the early 1900s. Both schools burned down before it was moved to Prince Albert in the 1940s.

“It was so hard for us,” remembers Ross. “We had to work in the mornings very early before we even had breakfast. We were hungry a lot of times. We got strapped for nothing, for speaking Cree.”

Ross says he has a lot of memories from the time he spent in the residential school, “all bad memories.”

Residential school support worker Tom Roberts says the monument is a dedication to the people who passed through the doors of the two schools that once operated in La Ronge. He says the stone will stand so people can remember and reflect.

“It is for them, not to try to remember what happened here, but that there was a

school here and there was abuse here. We want to make sure it is never forgotten.”

The unveiling was held in part with the Woodland Cree Gathering opening ceremonies hosted by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. For Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, a survivor herself, emotions were at an all time high. She is the third generation in her family to attend residential school.

Her parents and grandmother also survived the experience.

Struggling to speak through her tears, Cook-Searson explained the power of seeing the elders and their resilience when they see their own faces in the photos engraved upon the monument stone.

“To see the elders that attended school here, standing there knowing they were once children here. Yet, they’re still standing there proud.”

Many of the elders in attendance were happy to be honoured in the ceremony for their experiences at the schools. For Ross, he says although he was abused during his short stay at the Lac La Ronge Indian Residential School, he is grateful for the little education he did receive.

“I don’t know where I would be if I didn’t go to school like today I am able to speak a little bit of English I learned from this school. I’m very glad I went to school even though I was abused.”



Elders look on as a monument commemorating students is unveiled at the former site of the Lac la Ronge Indian Residential School. (Photo by Larissa Burnouf)

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The cadets at Operation Eagles Nest were treated to world class training by the Canadian military. A sharp eyed military photographer caught the cadets, the instructors and a jet doing a flyby at graduation. (Photo supplied)

Military runs leadership camp at Muskeg Lake

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

MUSKEG LAKE FIRST NATION – At Pitihkwakew Lake, you get used to seeing beautiful trees, campers and people fishing.

For a week in August, though, you would have seen a tank ... and guns, lots of guns. The lake was home to a military leadership camp run by the Canadian Forces and populated with Aboriginal youth from across northern Saskatchewan.

The weeklong camp, called Operation Eagles Nest, put the students through team building exercises, leadership training, drills, assault boat training, map and compass training, weapons handling and how to ride in a tank.

Muskeg Lake has a long and proud history in the Canadian Military and Chief Cliff Tawpisin Jr. and his council work hard to make sure it continues.

“Our veterans have left us an amazing legacy of leadership in our community,” said Chief Tawpisin.

“Their work opened so many doors

and gave us our freedom. We do this to honour them, but also so the young people get a chance to learn skills to cope with their challenges. And who knows, maybe one day the military will be for them.”

Muskeg hosted a banquet and had ten members of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association come for dinner and to meet the youth. At the graduation ceremony a jet from Cold Lake did a flyby.

Two of the soldiers working with the youth, Master Warrant Officer Grant Greyeyes and Captain Walker Pryor are from Muskeg Lake and band councillor Kelly Wolfe, who spearheaded the project, is an army vet who served in the PPCLI in Afghanistan.

Having these local serving members and veterans so involved makes this camp that much more special for Chief Tawpisin.

“The legacy continues when our warriors come home and share with our young people and we are honoured to have them in our community,” said Chief

Tawpisin.

“They help instill in our youth that

drive and leadership you need for a healthy lifestyle.”





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* Veuillez noter que ces séances seront présentées en anglais.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
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I can't teach students what I don't know

Now that I've been a professional writer for over 30 years, I've started to get more involved with teaching.

I don't have a Masters degree or any schooling beyond Grade 9. I've never taken a writing course. But what I do have is working knowledge of how to be a writer.

After a run of 12 books in 18 years a guy should have picked up a few things to be able to share with others.

Through the years I've written virtually everything except maybe the label on a soup can. In that time I've written for radio, newspapers, television, public policy papers and of course, the stories. Still, I've flown largely by the seat of my pants and learned what I needed to learn as I needed it. It's been a fruitful career though I wouldn't encourage anyone to try it the way I did.

There's something to be said for three decades as a writer. A guy has to have learned something to garner awards, an honorary doctorate and a host of 'friends' on Facebook. So I've been doing a lot more teaching in the last few years. It's a real pleasure and an honor.

This year alone I will have taught at three post-secondary institutions. I've actually been invited there.

At one point in my life I was only ever kicked off a campus.

But life changes and people seem willing to bring me to their schools so that I can teach students. This always fascinates me.

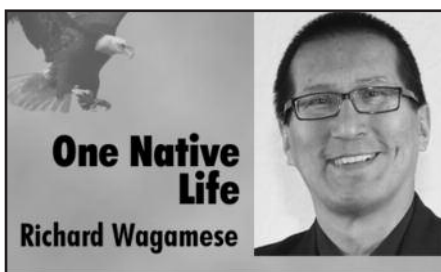
The students I teach have all got more education than I do. They have a lot more experience with academic process than I ever will.

That can be a daunting thought. So standing in front of a classroom filled with such buoyant spirits and whip smart minds is a real honor for me.

But I always make sure to tell my students or workshop participants, that I can only teach them what I know. I don't have a background in theory. I don't have an innate understanding of methodology, pedagogy or the other hundred pound words of academia.

But I do know how to pound a sentence into submission and how to make one paragraph soar into the next. So I focus on teaching that.

I simply can't teach them what I do not know. Take grammar for instance. I am terrible at grammar. I live and die by



my computer software's spelling and grammar checker. I can't tell a modifier from a humidifier and as far as I know an adverb is an action word in a car

commercial. Don't even bother to ask me to define what a colon is. I only know it's not something you write about in a family newspaper.

I can't teach students any of that. But I can teach them the sheer love of language. That's something I really know.

I can teach them the joy that comes when one great word gallops after another into the corral of a wonderful sentence and you're left with the dust of it on your hands.

Then I can show them how to lasso them into a great paragraph. I can teach them how to work with emotion, spirit and joy.

I can teach them the wonder that falls over you when a story just kind of walks up and introduces itself to you. I can teach them how good it feels to sit down and put the first word of that story

on paper. I can teach them how to do that every day. I can't teach them how to make writing a part of who you are and who you become.

Most of all I can teach them how to find the work you love and to bring the love to it each day of your life. I can show them how to be a creator, to bring things to life in words and image so that others can share your vision. I can teach them that Creator has placed us in a world of the possible not the impossible because my journey has been all about that.

After all this time I understand that I don't know much. My scope of knowledge about teaching and academia and curriculum is very limited. I couldn't teach anyone anything I haven't a firm grasp on. The amount of things that I don't know far outweighs what I do. What I do know however, I know with my heart and my mind always comes along for the ride.

But I do know something about joy, about satisfaction, about feeling fulfilled at what I do and about the wild, rollicking adventure life can be when you do what you love doing the most; paycheck or no paycheck. That's life and teaching, I figure, is about sharing all of that.

Cameco 

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Making a difference



Not a pedometer

With so many good shows on Netflix and so many entertaining emotional breakdowns on Facebook, it's challenging to find new ways to trick myself into exercising.

That's why, several times a day, I tap the space between my boobs. I don't have bra-related OCD, I have a Fitbit. It's a tiny device that you clip on to measure the steps you take when you are walking.

However, it is NOT a pedometer. That's like calling a "horse", a "tall dog", which is only accurate in Cree.

A Fitbit is a way of life. When you sign up you're joining a community of likeminded crazy people who want to measure every step of their journey through life.

I've heard of people walking circles in their driveway to reach their step goals – I've only walked around my living room cuz I like to keep my cray-cray on the down-low.

There are other ways that a Fitbit is much more awesome than a pedometer. First of all, it uses GPS which is a magical radiation that comes from satellites and allows us to measure distances like wizards of old.

Second, the Fitbit tells me how much further I have to walk before I can rest and when I hit the distance, it vibrates like a granny who only needs one number for a blackout.

And finally the Fitbit has this cute little face that smiles up at me when I glance down at it – like a supportive small child (and how many of you have a supportive kid? Because the ones I know are generally focussed on killing their parents' will to live.)

I just smiled mysteriously and tapped between my breasts. Looking back, I probably should have explained a bit further.

I ordered the Fitbit online and then impatiently waited eight days for it to arrive. Every day without a Fitbit was just another day of stupid walking for no reason!

Finally it arrived and I tore open the package with the fervour of a blood-crazed chimpanzee. In my haste, I accidentally swallowed a piece of it. (Try explaining that to customer service.)

Before you get started with your

walking, the Fitbit asks what your goals are. Then it calculates how far you have to walk to reach them. I said I would like to walk around the circumference of the world – twice.

Fitbit told me to "quit being weird." Seriously though, everyone gets the same general goal of ten thousand steps, which for a tall person is four miles and



about five for shrimps (once again, us shorties get screwed over!)

Fitbit encourages you to surround yourself with a supportive network of people sharing the same goals –or you can do what I do and compete against them with sociopathic glee. My Fitbit community is a random bunch – stay at home dads, soccer moms, ex-travel agents who now sell coke, etc. I have competed ruthlessly against all of them. Take, Stacey, who teaches Zumba and has two beautiful children.

One day she walked 15,000 steps. When I saw that number, I could have been like, "Way to go Stacey!" But instead I was like, "Whatever, you weak beotch!" and then I walked 15,001 steps. And that's a lesson for all of us – no matter where we are in life, we can always out-walk more successful people.

I work full time in an office which can result in the occupational hazard of roly-poly gut syndrome.

Before I got the Fitbit, instead of walking one floor down to drop off paperwork, I would email coworkers to see if they were going downstairs and "could they maybe swing by?"

But now that I have to walk 10,000 steps in a day, I find excuses to pop into my coworkers' offices and pace around their desks like a hungry rez-dog.

I've even started using the bathroom on the first floor which prompted one of my coworkers to ask, "Why are you using this bathroom?"

You have your own bathroom upstairs." (Bathroom territorialism is a normal part of office worker-life. Don't worry, it rarely gets violent.) I just smiled mysteriously and tapped between my breasts. Looking back, I probably should have explained a bit further.

If you'd like to know more about the Fitbit, feel free to stop me next time you see me walking aimlessly around Saskatoon. (Unless you've walked more steps than me that day in which case you can suck it.)



MY FIRST METIS LOBSTICK

Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, *My First Métis Lobstick* takes young readers back to Canada's fur trade era by focusing on a Métis family's preparations for a lobstick celebration and feast in the boreal forest. Through the eyes of a young boy, we see how important lobstick making and ceremony was to the Métis community. From the Great Lakes to the present-day Northwest Territories, lobstick poles – important cultural and geographical markers, which merged Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions – dotted the landscape of our great northern boreal forest. This little known aspect of Métis history vividly comes to life through Leah Marie Dorion's crisp prose and stunning gallery-quality artwork. Those interested in ordering a copy of the book should go to www.gdins.org/shop-gdi/





Miss Earth Sask an advocate for First Nations

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Feather Pewapisconias-McKee, a 20-year old First Nations woman from Littlepine First Nation won the title of Miss Earth Saskatchewan in June. She earned the title based on being a positive role model in environmental concerns that affect the world today.

But she didn't stop there; she competed in the Miss Earth Canada pageant last month in Montreal and presented her platform.

"I've competed in Miss Earth Canada, the pageant is based on environmental issues and my environmental issue that I presented on was unsafe drinking water in First Nations communities," she said.

"The goals of the pageant are to raise awareness and bring a discussion and try to figure if there are ways to make a difference with the platform."

Unfortunately, McKee didn't win the title but she got her message out there which was important for her especially since she was the only Aboriginal person competing in the pageant.

"A lot of people there were surprised and astonished because they didn't know (this issue) was happening. Some of them said 'this day and age, how is that possible,'" said McKee.

"I've had people coming up to me congratulating me and hoping that I continue doing what I'm doing and continue advocating for Aboriginal people and communities," she adds.

She grew up on the reserve and she realized that water was one of the main issues living on the reserve.

"You don't really think about it because you're so used to it. Once you're living in a city, you realize how much of a luxury it is to have clean drinking water. You realize of how much it needs to be fixed on reserves," says McKee.

She describes the water back on her reserve smelling like rust and even now when she goes back home for visits, she says the situation hasn't changed.

"When I go home to visit and even in a lot of other different reserves, I notice they don't have water piping systems. Some reserves are still using water trucks to haul water," she says.

McKee is hoping her platform raised awareness for people to have more of an understanding that this is one of many problems that occur on reserve communities.

"I understand when people want to help Third World countries but no one is really looking at the problems here in our lands," she says.

"That is one of the agreements in the treaties is to have clean drinking water and it's not there. We have to find solutions to make it better," she adds.

The Miss Earth Canada pageant was held in Montreal late last month and although the pageant is over, McKee is not going to stop advocating her platform.

"I'm back at university, in my third year in the SUNTEP education program. I'll be working at the Aboriginal Student Centre as an Aboriginal student ambassador. I'll be doing a lot of advocating and diversity projects to make the U of S more progressive and diverse," she said.

"I'm also working with the College of Kinesiology on having more aboriginal representation and to have more Aboriginal students involved in fitness and health," she added.

McKee is also running for Vice-President for the Indigenous Student Council at the U of S to continue advocating for Aboriginal rights.

Although she didn't come home with the pageant title, she brought home an amazing experience that she will remember forever.

"The experience was awesome and a lot of fun, I met a lot of girls from across Canada, and I also toured Montreal. It was a very interesting experience; I've never done anything like that in my life."

Feather Pewapisconias-McKee, third from left, represented Saskatchewan at the Miss Earth Pageant in Montreal last month. Feather campaigns tirelessly about improving water quality on reserves.
(Photo Hot Shots Photography)

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Culture on the Go
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For applications, visit: www.artsboard.sk.ca/grants

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Northern Saskatchewan Football League soars into second season

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

PINEHOUSE – Northern Saskatchewan Football officially kicked off its second season with a battle of the Lakers from La Loche and Pinehouse.

"It's just like the the old CFL when both Ottawa and Saskatchewan were called Roughriders," jokes Pinehouse head coach Curtis Chandler.

It was fittingly dubbed 'The Laker Bowl'.

"All I can tell you is that the Lakers won."

The coach was, of course, referring to his own team who overpowered a spirited bunch from La Loche 58-7. A strong group of veterans lead the way for Pinehouse.

"I got most of my team back." Chandler exclaims.

"We have 13 veterans and ten rookies and the second year guys have really stepped up and taken leadership roles. They're showing the new guys small things I showed them last year like the proper way to take a hand-off or how to protect the ball."

"And it allows me to concentrate more on the playbook."

Pinehouse is led by returning tailback Johnny Tinker, who scored 15 touchdowns in last season's playoffs, and is aided by some talented rookies, including Johnny's little brother Drey who kicked off his

football career with two touchdowns against La Loche.

Pinehouse, it seems, is ready to be deemed a football powerhouse. But the ever-humble coach played down that sentiment.

"The thing I love about football is



Pinehouse Lakers coach Curtis Chandler address his team before their season opener against the La Loche Lakers in the Laker Bowl.

anything can happen," Chandler explains.

"We were 1-3 after the regular season last year but clicked at exactly the right time and won the championship. This year who knows where that will happen. I know Cumberland House is chompin' at the bit to get another shot at us after we took them out in the semi-finals."

After a successful 'test' season last

year, Northern Saskatchewan Football added three new teams in Green Lake (Spirits), Creighton (Kodiaks) and Lac La Ronge (SMVS Huskies) for this season.

In fact, the football winds in the North are so strong, even the Grey Cup blew through various Northern towns when

What's even more special is the football culture that continues to grow in the North.

Hundreds of fans are showing up for high school games, with countless people offering to volunteer and help with whatever is needed.

Northern community members are now able to feel like a part of a sport that's been played in their province for over 100 years. They are also 'officially' included in the fandom of their province's only professional sports team – the Roughriders.

"Pinehouse was a real hockey and basketball town. Now folks are talking about the Riders and tuning into games. I have 20 to 30 parents helping out at every game with everything from keeping score to making sure their kids are listening to me."

"It is really great to have that level of support," he says.

And while Chandler looks to the future with the hope that one day Northern football players will be given the chance to play junior, university/college and even pro, the Pinehouse coach is easily able to keep it all in perspective.

"As long as the kids are healthy, happy and playing football, we're good to go."

For more information on the league, teams, scores and schedules, check out <http://northernfootball.com/>

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Mike and his pals own North America in 3 x 3 basketball

Mike Linklater has gone from playing basketball in the inner city to winning a national CIS title and now a high level North American 3 on 3 tournament.

Team Saskatoon edged Denver in a thrilling 18-17 win in the August final of the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Chicago Masters, which was held by the beach on the shores of Lake Michigan as part of Nike's World Basketball Festival.

Willie Murdaugh had seven and O'Neil Gordon scored six points in the final, including the game-winning acrobatic lay-up with 15 seconds to go in the game to put Saskatoon on top.

They were on the four-man team with former University of Saskatchewan stars Michael Liefers and Mike Linklater. Linklater is ranked as the top 3x3 player in Canada by the International Basketball Federation's (FIBA) 3x3 Basketball trackers. Last year his team finished second in the Americas and sixth in the world.

The 3x3 is a fast game that runs ten minutes with only a 12 second shot clock.

"We prepared different than for a regular game," said Linklater. "We used Ignite Athletic Conditioning and they geared our workouts so that we worked hardest at the end. These short games are won and lost in the final two minutes."

Team Saskatoon took home the \$10,000 winning cheque, which was handed out by 1992 Olympics gold medal-winner and basketball legend Scottie Pippen, while Denver won \$5,000. Both qualified for the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Final, which will take place in Tokyo, Japan on Oct. 11-12.

"Scottie Pippen's hands are ginormous," added Linklater who was thrilled to meet several NBA stars at the event where he also acted as an ambassador and gave a speech at the opening ceremonies.

"That was a pretty humbling experience, especially when I left the stage and the American National team filed by ... all these NBA stars. It was great."



O'Neil Gordon, Michael Liefers, Willie Murdaugh and Mike Linklater accepted their winning cheque from NBA legend Scottie Pippen (middle).

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Hard work makes for a hockey hero

By Creeson Agecutay
For Eagle Feather News

OCHAPOWACE FIRST NATION – Arriving in Regina, Team Canada's Ethan Bear received a hero's welcome from friends and family after winning gold in Group B for the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup, under-18 men's hockey tournament, outscoring Czech Republic 6-2 in the final game.



ETHAN BEAR

The 17-year-old from the Ochapowace First Nation says the tournament was a once a in a lifetime opportunity, after being one of 22 players selected to represent Canada.

"It was a goal of mine and I always wanted to work hard," said Bear. "I wasn't sure if I was going make (Team Canada), I was kind of having doubts but then I kept positive and talked to my uncle Evan and he said, just be positive and have fun and I did. I kept it simple and played my game."

For generations, Ochapowace has raised dozens of young athletes in both softball and hockey and the reserve celebrated another athlete. Dozens of community members honoured Bear at the newly constructed Chief Denton George Memorial Multi-Plex. Family members stood proudly with Bear as elders from the community wrapped Bear in a Pendleton blanket and an honour song was sung by the reserve's local drum group.

"Through his dreams he has accomplished something very special," said Margaret Bear, Chief of Ochapowace. "We are so proud and honoured to

come together as a community to recognize his accomplishments and honour him today."

Bear comes from a long line of family members who have played hockey. Ethan's mother, Geraldine Bear said Ethan's late grandfather; Fred Bear would walk with his brothers to the neighboring town of Whitewood just to play the sport in the 1960s. The community hockey rink would later be named after Fred, the same rink where Ethan learned how to skate at the age of three. Geraldine is thankful the community and the late Chief, Denton George supported her family over the years and she carries that sentiment forward.

"Whatever Ethan chooses in life, we will support

him," said Geraldine. "Since he was five and six years old, Ethan has always wanted to play in the NHL. That's his dream and that's what he is going to do.

"If he decides he's going to do something different, we will support him."

Bear hopes to continue his dream of playing professional hockey as he starts his second season with the Western Hockey League's Seattle Thunderbirds in the United States. His message to the youth is, "Find something you're really good at and stick with it. Education will always be number one.

"You need to have something to fall back on. Work hard, stay on track and limit the distractions in your life."



IPAA
Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance



SNTC
THEATRE COMPANY

Intertribal Gathering

October 16th - 19th

Thursday October 16
 10:00am Welcoming Ceremony
 10:30am-5:30pm
 IPAA Strategic planning:
 7 pm Staged reading
Crees in the Carribean
 by Drew Hayden Taylor

Friday October 17
 10am-5:30pm
 IPAA Strategic planning day
 8pm Artist Showcase
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 (Women of Saskatchewan)

Saturday October 18
 12pm-5pm Prairie Touring Circle at Wanuskewin
 8pm *Métis Artist Showcase*: 15\$
 10pm *Cabaret After Party* at Village Guitar: 5\$
 Performances by Nosedive and Nightswitch
 Featuring a live band Karaoke hour

Sunday October 19th
 2pm Tribe presents
Winter Home
 by Michael Greyeyes

All performances at
STUDIO 914
 914 20th Street W

Daytime events are free and open to the public.
 Tickets: 306-667-1221 or
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 Festival passes 35\$
 single day pass 15\$

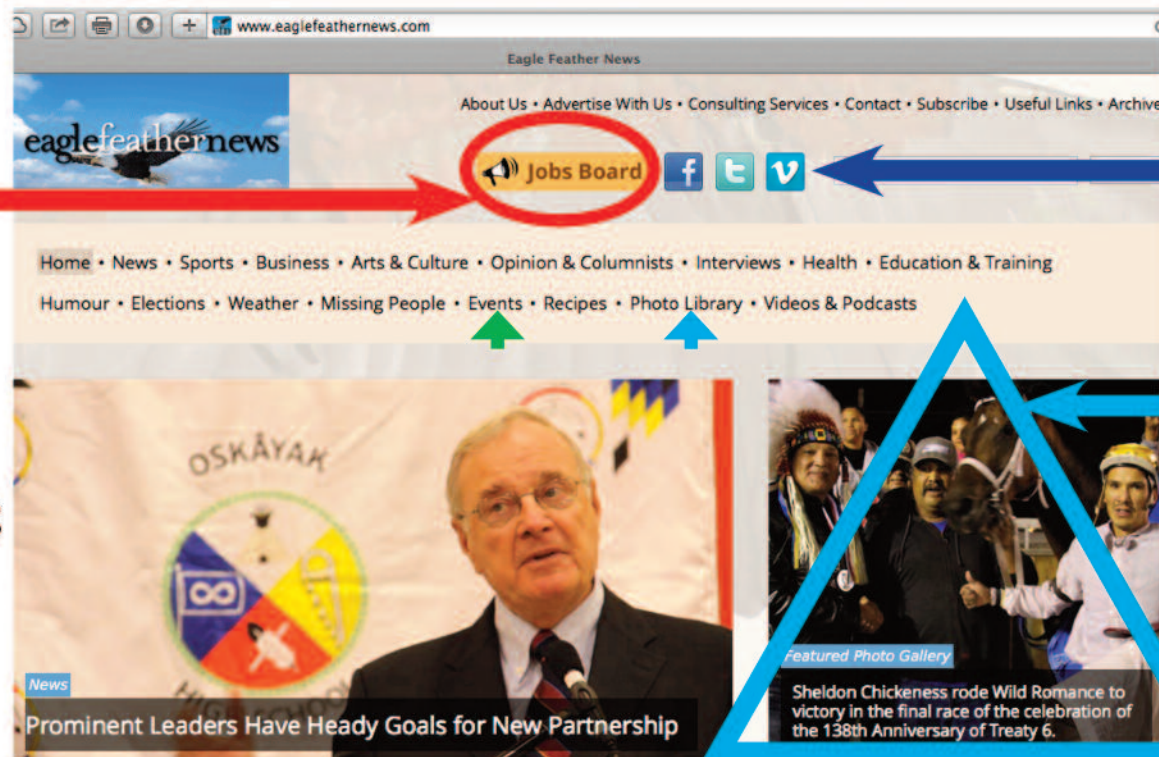
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